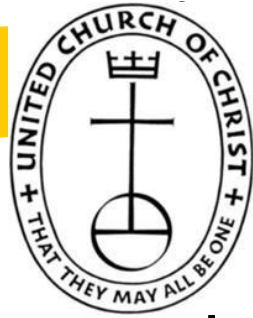




June 2015



The Tidings

Ministerial Moments

With Pentecost having occurred May 24, and Trinity Sunday on May 31, we are now into that vast period known as Ordinary time. For the next few months most of our celebrations will be secular, Flag Day, Independence Day, Hiroshima Remembrance Day, VJ Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day (if anyone still celebrates it), United Nations Day, etc. Only Reformation Day and All Saints Day are clearly religious holidays. Thanksgiving has the distinction of being instituted by the US government but does have religious overtones.

What really is Ordinary time? The Liturgical year, as we practice it, not only tells us something about the life, death, and teachings of Jesus Christ, but hopefully, at some point, allows us to see how Jesus' life intersects with our own. It is during the Ordinary time, both that time between Epiphany and Lent, and that time between Trinity Sunday and Advent, that we have for contemplating the divine and allowing it to further our own spiritual development. As we further study the life and teachings of Jesus, it is hoped that we will attempt to live the life of Jesus as if God were always present until one day, we find that the life of Jesus has become our own. The world around us tells us that life is about money, security, power, and success. The Gospels tell us that real life is about doing the will of God, regardless of how difficult it may be, sometimes going against the flow to stand for justice for the invisible other, whomever the other may be.

Ordinary time, may seem routine, but it is what we do routinely, not what we do rarely that delineates our character. It is our daily, normal, regular, and common lives which give clarity to the essence of our real selves. While we take our days as ordinary, it should be remembered that long before the church celebrated specific days as Christ's birth, or Easter, each Sunday was a celebration of the Resurrection because Christ rose on a Sunday morning. Therefore, each Sunday is a "little" Easter.

The adult Sunday school class has been discussing experiencing God through the senses.

The first lesson was on touch. The second lesson, which we are now in is on hearing. I am finding some of these lessons helpful in my sermons. One of the questions, is quoted above: How would it change life to live in the knowledge that God is always present. (A Sensual Faith, Ian Price. Woodlake Books). Think about it, when are you most aware of the presence of God? Do you experience God mostly through sight, sound, smell, touch, or taste? When do you least experience the presence of God? Does it make a difference? Do you carry God's presence with you throughout the week?

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Greeter and Ushers for June and July

June 7 - Dave & Pete Dressel, Carol Gladson

June 14 - Larry & Kathy Matzenbacher, Carol Gladson

June 21 - David & Evelyn Schneidewind, David & Mindy Schneidewind

June 28 - Mandi Schmierbach, Carol Mercer, Curt Werner

July 5 - Mandi Schmierbach, Carol Mercer, Curt Werner

July 12 & 19 - Bobbi Duffie, Jean Riess, Dale Sinn

July 26 - Jay & Leslie Lehman, Dennis & Nicole Sinn



June Anniversary's

Neal & Joan Galle	2
Craig & Melanie Rahlfs	2
Tom & Bobbi Duffie	5
Fred & Marilyn Lewis	17
Martin & Alberta Galle	18

June Birthday's

Paula Neely	1
Pastor Gail Geisel	6
Sarah Galle	7
Irving Schickedanz	12
Courtney Swartzkopf	13
Sharon Reese	16
Leslie Lehman	18
Gertrude Heil	22

Community Garden

By now you know that the garden is in and the vegetables are sprouting. Some of you who are not able to physically get out to the garden and help have asked what you can do. I have thought of a couple of things. First, we will need those plastic baskets like cherry tomatoes and strawberries come in, so if you have any on hand, please bring them by the church. Our tomatoes are Roma, so I think we can use them for that and we might be able to use them for the leaf lettuce and spinach also.

I don't know what kind of container beans are given out in, so if you can tell me we will need those also. I think we planted bush beans.

The other thing we will need is recipes. I have a feeling entirely too much crook-neck/ yellow squash got planted so if you have instructions for grilling or anything else I would appreciate it. Ron and I have a tendency to steam or boil, but surely there is some other way. Other recipes needed, are for any way you know of to fix zucchini, from fried to grilled to zucchini bread to relish. The same is for bell peppers, onions, bush beans, excess tomatoes, and cucumbers. I am hoping Evangelical Daughters will allow me to use some of the recipes out of their cookbook. Recipes will be given out with the vegetables and have Friedens name, address and times of service at the end of the page

Bible Study

On Wednesday, June 3 at 4:15 we will begin a mid-week Bible Study. The first six weeks will be a study on grief. We will then decide whether to continue on after my vacation or start a new Bible study sometime in August. Probable second study will be on prayer. It is at that time, that I am thinking of doing a series of sermons on prayer, especially the Lord's Prayer, which for some reason is not included in the lectionary.

Everyone is welcome to the mid-week Bible study. You do not have to be a member of the church, so if you know someone who may be interested, please extend to them the welcome.

TWIGS

TWIGS is a free summer lunch program sponsored through the Methodist Church by the Family TreeHouse in Granite City. The lunches will be handed out to anyone 18 or younger from 11am-non Monday through Friday beginning June 8 and ending August 21st. The library is hosting TWIGS but Friends of the Library is asking that each church in the community to dedicate volunteers one day per week to bag the meals and distribute them from the library. The meals consist of lunchables, Capri Sun, crackers, ets. They are also asking for refrigeration space to store lunchables. For more information or to sign up, please call Robin Geraldts [\(618\) 317-0031](tel:6183170031) or at sis8789@hotmail.com .

Coal Festival Parade

It's Coal Fest Time. Last year a sign was bought so that a Friedens vehicle could take part in the parade. Ron drove our SUV last year, but anyone who wants to is welcome to drive, just let us know. Deacons have decided to throw ice pops out of the vehicle this year and Funds and Fellowship has graciously agreed to pay for them. Other than a driver, we will need riders and people to toss the ice pops to the crowd.

Next Tidings Update: The July and August tidings will be combined. So if you have anything for either month, please submit it by June 22nd. Thanks!

Comments from the Church Mouse

Quite a bit has been going on around me. Or at least I have been hearing about a lot. It seems as if some of our church members had a great time at the Grizzlies Field for a Conference Day. Wish I could have gone.

I did get to be here for the May 4th Evangelical Daughters' Mother/Daughter Tea. I really enjoyed hearing Ken Terveer play on his 12 string guitar and sing. What a treat! His sister Jane and his wife Beverly sang with him on a few, a real family trio. He sat some little girls' feet to dancing, and Blanche Schmierbach got out and danced with Jane. I loved it. The ladies seemed to have a good time.



I particularly like Blanche, and I have heard some ladies comment on how she is great to tell people thank you and to send cards. Compliments are nice to overhear, and she deserves them.

The fellowship hall looked real festive for the Mother/Daughter Tea, but I was more interested in the food. I did get a few tidbits to stick in my hide hole. They sure had a lot of food, a lot.

At least I and my cache can make it until the next blood drive which will be Monday, June 22. That's always a good time for me to catch a few crumbs.

Soon the choir will stop for the summer and I'll miss them. I know we'll have some special summer music, but I'll miss choir practice. Even if they do talk a lot, I enjoy the singing.

I also enjoyed the pictures that Carol Mercer put on the bulletin board. I just wish she had posted them a little lower so I could see them even better. Remember, I'm just a little mouse.

I've heard some talk about a community garden, and Pastor Gail is excited about it. Unfortunately, it is too far away for me to go see it, and there are at least ten dogs and five cats between the church and the garden.....so I'll just have to hear about it.

Let me know what else is happening, will you?

Ministerial Moments Continued from page 1

On Sunday, May 17, I also asked those present to join me in a 60 Day Soul Challenge. I hope the rest of you will join us also as we pray for the church, our church leaders and community. During this time, if you can, invited someone to pray with you even if they are skeptical. This is not a "my way is the right way: prayer" but only an invitation to pray with you and to give as much of yourself as you understand to as much of God and His will as you understand, and see if God does not show up and help us discern our direction in those 60 days.

God is still speaking. Let us remember to be quiet enough so that we may hear what He is telling us.

Blessings, Pastor Gail

JUNE 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Daughters Mtg - 6:30 pm	2 1 pm Quilters	3 Kindergarten Graduation 9 am Bible Study 4:15 pm	4	5 Last Day of School for Marissa Students	6
7	8 TWIGS begins	9 Council Mtg - 7 pm 1 pm Quilters	10	11 Coal Festival	12 Coal Festival	13 Coal Festival Parade 4 pm
14 Father's Day Breakfast, Trinity Sunday	15 VBS—First Baptist	16 VBS—First Baptist 1 pm Quilters	17 VBS—First Baptist	18 VBS—First Baptist	19 VBS—First Baptist	20
21	22	23 1 pm Quilters	24	25 58th Anniversary of the UCC	26	27
28	29	30 1 pm Quilters	31	July 2 - 7 pm Spiritual Council Mtg July 5 - Independence Day Sunday Worship July 13-20 - Pastor Gail is on Vacation July 20 - Guest Preacher - TBA		

BLOOD DRIVE - JUNE 22 !!!

If you can't give blood, please help us out!

There will be a sign-up sheet in the vestibule.

Please sign up your help is needed!

Please give blood!

JUNE 22nd - - - - - FROM 2:30-6:30 P.M.



Friedens United Church of Christ

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